

REMARKS

In view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks, Applicants request favorable reconsideration of the above-identified application.

Claims 1-13 are now pending in this application, with Claims 1, 8, 9 and 12 being independent. By this Amendment, Applicants have amended Claims 1-11, and added new Claims 12 and 13.

Claims 1-11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 over U.S. Patent No. 5,672,862 (Ohara et al.). Applicants traverse this rejection.

As recited in independent Claims 1, 8 and 9, Applicants invention is generally directed to a binocular vibration-correcting device for a binocular optical instrument. The invention includes left and right vibration-correcting optical systems that correct left and right image vibration by being drive in the yaw direction and the pitch direction in accordance with the vibration. Optical system holding members hold the left and right vibration-correcting optical systems. An intermediate supporting member supports the pair of optical system holding members so that those holding members are able to rotate in the yaw direction. A connecting member connects the pair of optical system holding members also so as to be able to rotate in the yaw direction. Thus, the left and right vibration-correcting optical systems are connected so as to be able to rotate in the yaw direction in conjunction with each other.

The Ohara et al. patent is directed to a binocular device in which left and right vibration-correcting optical systems are driven independently of each other by actuators provided for each of the separate vibration-correcting optical systems. Applicants submit

that this patent does not describe connecting vibration-correcting optical systems so that they rotate in the yaw direction in conjunction with each other.

Accordingly, Applicants submit that the Ohara et al. patent fails to disclose or suggest at least the features of left and right vibration-correcting optical systems, a pair of optical system holding members that hold the left and right vibration-correcting optical systems, respectively, an intermediate supporting member that supports the pair of optical system holding members so as to be able to rotate in the yaw direction, and a connecting member that connects the pair of optical system holding members so as to be able to rotate in the yaw direction, as recited in independent Claims 1, 8 and 9.

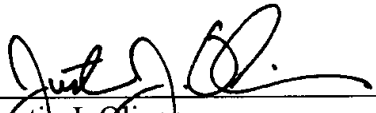
For the foregoing reasons, Applicants request withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102.

New independent Claim 12 is directed to an observation optical instrument. That instrument includes a connecting member that is connected to a holding member, with the connecting member being driven in the yaw direction. Applicants submit that this new independent claim is allowable in its own right over the Ohara et al. patent, and request favorable consideration thereof.

Dependent Claims 2-7, 10, 11 and 13 also should be deemed allowable, in their own right, for defining other patentable features of the present invention in addition to those recited in their respective independent claims. Further individual consideration of these dependent claims is requested.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,


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